



State Senator
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INTERNET SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE

Keeping our children safe from online predators is among our top priorities. Here are some safety tips to help you identify whether your child may be at risk, and what you can do to protect your child from these predators.

Your child might be at risk if he or she:

- Spends large amounts of time online, especially at night
- Turns the computer off or quickly changes the screen view whenever you enter the room
- Withdraws from the family
- Uses someone else's online account
- Receives phone calls from people you don't know
- Receives mail, gifts or packages from people you don't know

Or if you:

- Find pornography on your child's computer
- Find long distance numbers you don't recognize on your phone bill

To help minimize the risk:

- Talk about sexual victimization and potential online danger
- Spend time online with your child
- Keep the computer in a common room
- Use parental controls offered by service providers
- Randomly check child's e-mail, and make sure child's online account is accessible
- Tell your child never to arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone met online
- Don't allow children to post pictures of themselves on the Internet
- Tell them to never give out personal information, such as their name, address, school, or phone number
- Don't let them download pictures from an unknown source
- Teach them never to respond to obscene or suggestive messages or postings
- Explain how what they see or hear online may not be true

For more information on how you can protect your child from internet predators, please visit www.ftc.gov. There is a special section just for kids.

Sincerely,